

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE:CJ

APPROVED BY P:MR. SISCO

AF:AMB. SEELYE

S/S-RKKUCHEL

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P 082357Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO US

SUBJECT: US-SOMALI RELATIONS: SISCO MEETING WITH AMB.
ADDOU

1. SISCO MET APRIL 7 WITH AMBASSADOR ADDOU AT LATTER'S REQUEST. ONCE AGAIN ADDOU REFERRED TO "IMPORTANT" DECISION BY SRC IN JANUARY ON RECOMMENDATION OF PRESIDENT SIAD TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH USG. ADDOU STATED THAT PRESIDENT SIAD HIMSELF SUPPORTED AND APPROVED DECISION EVEN THOUGH SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS WITHIN SRC OPPOSED IT. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT NOW, ACCORDING TO ADDOU, THAT DECISION, , WITH US ENCOURAGEMENT, BE IMPLEMENTED.

2. ADDOU THEN REFERRED TO STATEMENTS WHICH SIAD MADE ABOUT US IN REMARKS TO COMMUNIST PARTY CONVENTION IN MOSCOW AND TO CRITICISM OF US FOLLOWING LOYADA INCIDENT IN FTAL. HE DISMISSED MOSCOW SPEECH AS UNIMPORTANT, COMMENTING THAT SPECIFIC STATEMENTS WERE MADE MERELY BECAUSE THEY FIT
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CIRCUMSTANCES OF OCCASION. MOREOVER, SIAD FELT HE HAD TO

BALANCE TO SOME EXTENT WITH SOVIETS FAVORABLE SRC DECISION RE DEVELOPING SOMALI-US RELATIONS. AS FOR ACCUSATIONS THAT US WAS PLOTTING WITH FRANCE AGAINST SOMALIA, THESE WERE MADE AT TIME WHEN SOMALI LEADERS AND PEOPLE WERE VERY EXCITED AS CONSEQUENCE LOYADA INCIDENT AND SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. KEY ELEMENT FOR FUTURE, ADDOU STRESSED,

IS THAT SIAD IS STRONG MAN OF SOMALIA WHOSE POWER IS UNCHALLENGED, AND SIAD WANTS BETTER RELATIONS WITH US.

3. AFTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR ADDOU'S PERSONAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, SISCO SAID THAT STATEMENTS MADE AT USSR PARTY CONVENTION, FOLLOWING LOYADA INCIDENT AND IN SIAD'S MESSAGE TO KIM IL-SONG WERE NOT HELPFUL. SINCE TWO COUNTRIES HAD NOT CREATED HABIT OF GETTING ALONG WELL AND THERE REMAINED CONSIDERABLE SUSPICION AND DOUBTS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP, UNFAVORABLE STATEMENTS SUCH AS ABOVE TENDED TO TAKE ON ADDED IMPORTANCE BECAUSE THERE WERE FEW OTHER YARDSTICKS BY WHICH TO MEASURE OUR RELATIONS.

4. SISCO SAID THAT SOMALIA WOULD FIND US RESPONSIVE TO ANY DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, BUT STRESSED THAT RELATIONS WERE TWO-WAY STREET. BEST WAY TO PROCEED, HE CONTINUED, WAS TO LOWER DECIBELS OF PUBLIC EXCHANGES AND STATEMENTS AND LOOK TO WAYS AND MEANS OF DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP IN CONCRETE AND PRAGMATIC WAY, PARTICULARLY IN DIRECTION OF TRUSTING ONE ANOTHER. THERE WAS NEED TO TALK MORE. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE COULD BE MORE CONTACT BETWEEN OUR EMBASSY IN MOGADISCIO AND YOUR FONMIN AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE PUT QUESTION OF SHIP VISIT TO GSDR BUT HAVE HAD NO RESPONSE.

5. IN SUM, WHILE WE APPRECIATE SRC JANUARY DECISION, WE HAVE SEEN NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE SINCE THEN THAT GSDR WANTS BETTER RELATIONS. ON CONTRARY, THERE IS MORE DOUBT HERE THAN EVER THAT SOMALIA WANTS REASONABLE RELATIONS WITH US. APPROVAL OF NAVAL VISIT WOULD BE GOOD BEGINNING.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY SISCO AS TO WHY GSDR WANTS
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BETTER RELATIONS WITH US, ADDOU STATED THAT SOMALIA AS SMALL COUNTRY WHICH WAS JEALOUS OF ITS INDEPENDENCE NEEDED EMANCIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT. REAL INDEPENDENCE NOT POSSIBLE IF SOMALIA WAS TOO HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON ANY ONE SIDE OR COUNTRY. THE LESS DEPENDENT IT WAS ON SOVIETS THE BETTER ITS INDEPENDENCE WAS GUARANTEED. MOREOVER, MAJORITY OF SOMALIS ARE WESTERN-ORIENTED AND DESIRE GOOD RELATIONS WITH US AND WEST.

COMMENT: WHILE ADDOU MAINTAINS HIS OUTWARD OPTIMISM, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT SISCO AND SCHAUFLE IN RECENT MEETINGS WITH HIM HAVE CONVINCED HIM THAT GSDR MUST TAKE MORE FORTHCOMING APPROACH IF THERE IS TO BE ANY IMPROVEMENT IN US-SOMALI RELATIONS. HE IS PLANNING TO SEND LONG PERSONAL MESSAGE TO SIAD IN NEXT POUCH CONVEYING DETAILS

SISCO MEETING AND URGING APPROVAL OF NAVAL VISIT. WE ARE DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WILL HAVE MUCH OF AN IMPACT.
SISCO

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